

PATRIOTISM!

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F A R C E.

As it is acted by his Majesty's servants.

Aut famam sequere, aut sibi convenientia finge
Scriptor.

HOR. de Art. Poet.

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Denny fund

P R O L O G U E.

PROTEUS, as ancient poets tell you,
 Was a most wond'rous clever fellow ;
 Could, in an instant, change his shape,
 Appear a lion or an ape ;
 Could belch out fire like *Vulcan's* mountain,
 Or vomit water like a fountain ;
 In short, could play as many a trick,
 As e'er was father'd on old nick.
 So say the poets ; — but the story
 All over is an allegory.
 This Proteus was a state-physician,
 In modern phrase, a politician,
 Who cleverly could turn his coat,
 As he was uppermost, or not.
 And tricks like his, 'tis loudly said,
 Are still by politicians play'd ;
 Who change their language, and their faces,
 Just as they change their posts and places.
 The author takes it by report ;
 For he was never yet at court ;
 Has neither pension nor annuity,
 Bribe or reward for doing's duty ;
 To neither Pitt nor Bute is known,
 Nor any servant of the crown ;
 But sees, with grief, a desp'rate faction
 Driving the nation to distraction,
 Raising a dreadful hue and cry
 'Bout taxes, laws, and liberty,
 While the true cause of all their din,
 Is, they are out, and others in.
 Britons, attend — The following farce
 Will shew the men as in a glass ;

*Of all their motions the true spring,
 Not love of country or of King,
 But envy, av'rice, or ambition,
 A fierce and factious disposition ;
 Rage from past disappointments flowing,
 And hope of rivals overthrowing ?
 These are the principles that sway
 The Whigs and patriots of our day,
 Dictate their speeches in each house,
 And Wilkes's scurrilous abuse ;
 And if they could by force or stealth,
 Wou'd turn us to a commonwealth ;
 Wou'd do as Cromwel did before,
 Behead their K—— at his own door.*

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

	ORTOLAN,	} Lords.
	HAUGHTY,	
	SCRIVENER,	
	MERCURIO,	
<i>Pitt</i>	SLYBOOTS.	
<i>Beckford</i>	CREOLE.	
	WILKES.	
	CHURCHILL.	

PATRIOTISM!

ACT I.

CREOLE. SLYBOOTS.

Cre. **W**ELL, Sir, you know I am your steady friend, and have done every thing in my power to support your interest in the city ; but after all I am apt to think your resignation was a little too precipitate, and that you gave your enemies a handle to say, that you acted like a froward child, who spurns at its victuals when cross'd or contradicted in the least.

Sly. Patience, dear Sir, patience ; I have not play'd my cards so ill hitherto, but my friends may trust somewhat to my management in time to come. All will be well in a short time.

Cre. Nay, Sir, 'tis not disputed but you have come off pretty handsomely yourself. Your pension and patent are no contemptible acquisitions. But many of your friends have a poor prospect, and are therefore ready to say, that you had better have continued in power, tho' a little circumscrib'd, than throw up all at once, because you was not suffered to do every thing.

Sly. Let not my friends entertain any such thoughts.—My resignation was a master-stroke of policy ; and if my schemes do not miscarry, you shall soon see me at the helm again, with more absolute authority than ever.

Cre. I wish, Sir, you could shew me on what these expectations are founded. It may not per-

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haps

haps be fit to explain yourself to every one ; but it is your real interest that some select friends be made acquainted with your views, that they may act accordingly.

Sly. Doubtless it is:—Listen then with patience.
—Lord Norland. *S. of Butte*

Cre. Confound him and all his countrymen ! How could you resign, my dear Sir, when you knew that minion wou'd instantly start up in your place ?

Sly. For that very reason.—To my no small mortification, I saw Lord Norland possess'd of his master's heart and ear. I saw likewise how much the nation stood in need of peace, in the midst of all our triumphs : yet so intoxicating is success, and so boundless is the rage of conquest, once it has taken possession of mens hearts, that I knew it would be next to impossible for any minister to conclude a peace, without bringing upon himself an immense load of popular odium, which therefore I resolved to avoid.

Cre. Pardon me, great Sir ! How could we stand in need of peace, while we were carrying every thing before us in all parts of the world ?

Sly. Because we were too much drain'd both of men and money, to have continued the war much longer with the least prospect of success ; and therefore it was prudent, nay it was necessary, to make peace while we were able to make a good one.

Cre. You amaze me, Sir ! especially when you insinuate want of money. What ! was not the city entirely at your devotion ? Did we ever boggle at subscribing for any sums you was pleas'd to demand ?

Sly. Softly, good Sir ! Softly. Subscriptions and paper may answer at home ; but paper will not do either in Germany or America ; and the scarcity

scarcity of coin throughout the whole kingdom, was too apparent not to intimidate the boldest minister. Our friends in the city were indeed very obliging, and we gave them suitable encouragement. Their profits, by lending us, were such as might well draw money from the greatest misers. But pray, Sir, in what difficulties were we plunged, to find ways and means for paying you the interest of what we borrowed? I need not say how odious every new tax must be to a nation overloaded with taxes already. The cyder-tax is a glaring proof of this.—Think upon all these things, and you will soon be convinc'd, that however high our national credit might seem to be, we were in reality next door to bankruptcy.—But supposing we could have got the cash, where were the men to be had? Every method of recruiting our armies had been tried; and experience has shewn, that without reckoning those who fell by the sword, we should never have been able to have replac'd those who were destroy'd in the hot countries, merely by the climate, without draining and exhausting our mother-country beyond what it could bear.—To say nothing of a reverse of fortune; which yet is always to be dreaded, in the greatest height of prosperity, because it may be occasion'd by a thousand different accidents, impossible to be foreseen or prevented.—All this I consider'd; I therefore would have gladly made a peace, could I have done it with any tolerable safety.

Cre. And pray, Sir, what hinder'd you?

Sly. That question from any body but you, my friend! Tell me only, what terms of peace wou'd have satisfy'd you gentlemen in the city, while you were such gainers by the continuance of the war?

Cre. Why, I think we should have been pretty

well satisfied, had we kept all the conquer'd sugar-islands. In comparison with them North America is not worth a rush.

Sly. By your leave, good Sir! It is very natural for you to be fond of the sugar-islands. The ingrossing the whole sugar-trade by a few rich planters, was a scheme too lucrative not to excite their warmest zeal. But others have their particular views and interests as well as you or I, and will prosecute them with the like attention. The interest of you sugar-merchants, however great in the metropolis, would have signified little in opposition to the bulk of the nation: and how could we have held up our faces to our other American islands, and those concern'd in them, had we left them expos'd to the same dangers and injuries which occasion'd such a bloody and expensive war? No, no, Mr Creole; whatever partiality I may have for you, and however much I might be inclin'd to gratify you in all your views, in return for your important services, I durst not run so great a hazard as that of incurring the indignation of the far greater part of Britain by giving up North America.

Cre. Very well; but might you not have pleas'd all parties, by retaining the sugar-islands and North America too?

Sly. No, Sir; Britain has not men enough to have maintain'd her in both these acquisitions. We must always take care not to exhaust the mother-country too much of its strength, otherwise it will fall a prey to its neighbouring enemies; and ev'n its own colonies will be ready to shake off their dependence upon it, and set up for themselves.

Cre. But still, Sir, if there was a necessity for giving up either the one or the other, had we
not

not better retain'd the richer part of our conquests, the islands, and restor'd Canada?

Sly. Supposing the French would have agreed to a peace on these terms, I do not think it would have been so much for our interest as the acquisitions we have made. We have full as many colonies already in the hot countries as Britain can well support. Consider only what a vast number of white people die annually in the East Indies, in Africa, and in the American islands, and you must acknowledge, that the nation in general pays very dearly for the wealth it draws from these parts. On the other hand, the climate of North America agrees so well with our people, that we may reasonably hope, without exhausting their mother-country too much, our colonies there will in a short time increase, and extend themselves so far as to be a great addition to our national strength; and by industry, and the natural product of the country, they will become the channel of conveying great part of the riches of the West Indies into Britain.

Cre. As this is your real opinion, I don't any longer wonder at your strange ambiguous harangue upon the peace, which no body knew what to make of.

Sly. You need not. It is hard to bring one's self to that pitch of ingenuity and candour, as to approve of the actions of a hated rival, be they ever so right; and yet no less hard to kick against the pricks of truth and conscience, when they stand staring a man full in the face.—This is a free confession, and an honest one. Besides, I did not want to offend either those who were for, or those who were against the peace.

Cre. I believe it. But had it not been more for your honour and interest to have concluded such a peace yourself? Your matchless eloquence
might

might have persuaded us into any thing, after making us believe that America was conquer'd in Germany.

Sly. That was too dangerous an experiment to trust to. My adopting German measures, after having exclaim'd so long and so violently against them, was indeed the only way to get into the good graces of my old master, all whose views center'd in the dear electorate. But I was well aware what a shock this gave to my popularity; and nothing but our unexpected, and indeed surprising success, both in Germany and America, could have kept my character afloat after such notorious trimming. Conscious of this, I resolv'd to strike a bold stroke to regain the ground I had lost, and at the same time to draw Norland into the scrape which I was resolv'd to avoid.

Cre. I don't quite comprehend you, Sir.

Sly. I need not tell you, that our falling upon the French trade, previous to a declaration of war, was a measure we have found very difficult to justify, in spite of all the colouring that has been put upon it. It was indeed a wrong-headed scheme, in point of interest as well as honour; for most of the cargoes so taken were lost before they could be condemned; and nothing has been a greater obstruction to the making a peace than this one preposterous illegal step. Illegal, I call it, because contrary to the law and practice of all civiliz'd nations; till within these few years that princes have learn'd to attack one another, and to rush like common banditti into one another's territories, without the least intimation or formality. Yet so blind is avarice, and so few are they who allow themselves to think of reason or justice, when any seeming advantage presents itself to their view, that ev'n this piratical way of entering into war, was generally applauded by the people

people of Britain. Therefore, how soon we got intelligence of the family-compact, my brother and I insisted, that we should fall to work much in the same way with the Spaniards. We reckon'd upon it, that Lord Norland wou'd never agree to such a proposal ; and that his arguments and interest would outweigh ours, both with the — and council. But this was the very thing I desir'd, as this gave me a specious pretext for resigning. Why should I be accountable for measures which I was no longer suffer'd to guide ?

Cre. But what if Norland had disappointed you by his concurrence ?

Sly. That was not much to be fear'd. Proud of his master's favour, Norland was not politician enough to discern the snare I had laid for him. But although he had fallen in with our measures, the whole honour of the affair would have been ours ; and had we been fortunate enough to have catch'd but one such ship. as the *Hermione* in this way, the populace wou'd have downright ador'd us, and wou'd have valued such a prize twenty times more than if it had been taken after a declaration of war.

Cre. You are certainly right in this, Sir ; for the people adore you as it is, and exclaim against Norland for not following your advice. They never consider the difference between a just cause for war, and one that is not so : and accordingly, when the haughty, thoughtless conduct of the Spaniard forc'd Norland into a war with him afterwards, and it was enter'd into without violating the laws of nations ; instead of being pleas'd with the vigour and success wherewith it was carried on, or thanking Norland for the wise measures he took, nothing is to be heard but the praises of Mr Slyboots for his wonderful sagacity and foresight ; and that we ought to have taken his

his advice, and fallen upon the Dons just as we did upon the French.

Sly. This is what I expected.

Cre. But, dear Sir, when you saw with what success Norland carried on the war, was you not afraid lest that should have stolen away the hearts of the people from you, and rivetted him in his power?

Sly. Not in the least. I knew that the taking the Havanna, wou'd humble the Spaniard, and produce a peace: but at the same time I foresaw, that the people of Britain, intoxicated more and more with success, and the fond delusive passion of extending their conquests still farther, wou'd be proportionably more averse to any moderate reasonable terms of peace. Has not the event justified my expectations? Has not Norland been forc'd to retire, hated and execrated, as a betrayer of his country?

Cre. But what of all that? He has still his master's ear, who employs his friends, and them only, and seems resolv'd never to commit the reins to you again, nor to any of those who threw up their places on your account.

Sly. Never fear; we shall soon force him into our measures, if you and my other friends stand firm, and continue to act your parts properly as you have done. Our trusty friend John Wilkes is hard at work, and has already publish'd such a comment on his M——sty's speech as will raise a ferment not easy to be allay'd. Mobs are very useful engines for politicians, and 'tis generally easy to make them believe any thing but what they see. We have a fine game to play with them just now; so take care, my dear friend, to play it right. A motion for an address from the Lord Mayor and Aldermen upon the peace, is a thing we may expect of course. Could we knock it
down

down by a majority against it, that would be best of all; but if you find that it is agreed to, take care to be out of the way when it is presented, and let the mob be spirited up to insult him who presumes to take your place. At the same time we must pretend the highest personal regard and devotion to his M^{ajesty}, while we make the people believe him a mere fool, who knows not to distinguish between his friends and his foes. A true independent Whig will never submit peaceably to any king, who will not himself submit to be a mere cipher, and who will dare to employ any minister but such as he approves of. I was once reputed a Tory; but see what time and experience can do. When I discovered that America was conquer'd in Germany, I discover'd likewise that a Whig minister is the most absolute minister in the world; that the more he encroaches upon the power and prerogative of his master, the more he enlarges his own, and the more he becomes the idol of the people.

Cre. Most heartily do I congratulate you, great Sir, on these important discoveries. You may ever depend on my poor services while you persevere in these glorious principles. Who knows but at last we may have the happiness to see their genuine issue, a commonwealth? at the head of which a gentleman of your parts could not fail to make a glorious figure! But all in good time. Our business at present must be carried on as we best may. *Patriotism and Liberty, Revolution-Whig, the ignominious peace, and the hated and hateful favourite*, are words that will serve us to excellent purpose in the city. To save appearances, I intend to have a most splendid illumination on the birth-day; but I shall as soon be hang'd as present a congratulatory address upon the peace. Mean time, dear Sir, I hope you'll

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remember,

remember, when you get into your old place again, that I bespeak the settling of at least one of the neutral islands, as they were call'd. It will make a fine estate.

Sly. It shall be yours.— But keep the secret, as you wish for success; for politicians must put on every appearance of disinterestedness. But [*looking at his watch*] we must away to dinner; 'tis near Lord Ortolan's hour. These rounds of dinners are more than shew;— they not only make a glaring figure in the news-papers, but they give us an opportunity of laying our heads together. Ortolan has great family-interest, and I'm afraid we must ev'n set him at the head of the treasury, that he may be able to keep a French cook. I need say nothing of Mercurio, as he and I must stand or fall together. He is indeed very useful as an errand-runner, and his zeal for us makes him boggle at nothing. Scrivener hates Norland and his country, as much as John Wilkes himself does;— and being a true lawyer, he can tell us to a hair's breadth how far we may go, without hazarding our necks. Yet we must keep a sharp look-out, lest some day he leave us in the lurch: for these old attornies are damn'd slippery fellows, and can play with both hands; and the rogue has sons to provide for.— Lord Haughty is quite happy with the revival of those obsolete words *Whig* and *Tory*:— for his Lordship is a stanch true-blue Whig; and one of that stamp is always for fixing the same mark of ignominy upon a Tory, that the law of Moses fixed upon bastards; for Whigs never thrive but when faction prevails, as 'tis then, and then only, that the whole wealth and power of the nation can be ingross'd by a few.

Cre. But how stands Lord Bruin dispos'd?

Sly. Ready to head any party of malecontents that will receive him: for you may believe it
goes

goes ill down with him, who once rul'd all with such absolute sway, to preside only at horse-races. The head of a S——t would be a most acceptable present to him. Ten to one but he wou'd try to preserve it in spirits. But he owes me a grudge; and therefore I'll keep him out if I can. I am for a commonwealth, but not for a military government; and nothing else would please him. I know his violent arbitrary spirit. But come along. I see Lord Mercurio's coach waits us; and we shall have the charming music of the mob, who are gathering to attend us. [Exeunt.

Mob without.

Huzza! Slyboots for ever. No Scots favourite:
No excise! Liberty and property. Huzza!

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A C T II.

SCENE, Lord Ortolan's dining-room. A numerous company at dinner, viz. Lords Ortolan, Haughty, Mercurio, Scrivener, &c. Mess. Slyboots, Creole, &c. &c.

Ort. **M**Y Lords and Gentlemen! you scarce eat any thing. Come, what signifies thinking? We have had our days, and shall have them again. Had we stood firm to our good friends the Jews, the Whigs might for ever have reign'd triumphant. But there's no recalling what is past; so let us eat, drink, and be merry, as long as we can. Here, Lord Mercurio, let me help you to a little of this ragout. The receipt for making it came from France by the very first mail after the correspondence was open'd. My cook tells me it was sent him as a present from a cousin of his, who is principal cook to the French King. What say you, my Lord; is it not excellent?

Mer. Beyond any thing I ever tasted, my Lord; it is absolutely delicious!

Ort. My Lord Haughty, I know you love an English dish. Here are some fine carp-palates; only I suspect the sauce is not rich enough.

Hau. [*tasting it*] Upon my honour, my Lord, you do it wrong: it is immensely rich. But my stomach has been in disorder for some time past. It is hard to digest what I met with.

Ort. Ay; we have all had our own trials. No matter. We must hope for better times. Well! No body eats. [*To the servants*] Take away the cloth, and set down wine. [*Exeunt servants.*]

vants.]—My Lords and Gentlemen, we are now by ourselves ; a free parliament ;— a bumper of Burgundy to the K—— ; his M——y has not better friends than this company. We are the true Revolution-Whigs who set his family upon the throne ; and we will stand by the K—— who stands by the laws, *and employs such ministers as are acceptable to the nation.*

Mer. And these, my Lord, I will venture to say, can only be found in this company. The public has had long experience of your Lordship's abilities ; to say nothing of a gentleman here present, whose praises from my mouth might be suspected, because of the connection between us. I hope his M——y will never be so blind to his own interest as to employ any others, at least for any considerable time.

Sly. His M——y is a most generous, wise, and pious prince. I have indeed been oblig'd to leave his service ; but must do him the justice to say, that he possesses ev'ry virtue and excellency in a higher degree than any of his predecessors ever attain'd to.— His only foible is a favourite, of which, 'tis to be hop'd, time, experience, and our advice, will cure him. A patriot king must, as one may say, divest himself of human nature, at least of every private, social affection. He must have no will of his own, but must absolutely submit in ev'ry thing to the will and guidance of the minister of the people.

Scriv. A plague confound all favourites ! A Scot in favour ! I hate the very name more than I do the devil. O ! England, what is it come to ! A Scots Archbishop ! a Scots Lord Chief Justice ! and which is worst of all, a Scots Favourite ! We must pull them all down, else the very name of *Whig* will be buried in oblivion.

Hau. Forbid it Heaven ! I had sooner forgive
his

his M——y for turning his back upon me, and beg pardon for not attending the c——l when sent for. To see these d—n—d Tories and Scots swarming about the court! Hell and furies!

Scriv. Ay, my good Lord; and to hear them impudently pretending, that, in fact, there's no distinction now 'twixt Whig and Tory;—that the sons and grandsons of the old Tories are now as zealous supporters of the reigning family as any;—and therefore, that party-names should be laid aside, and every man who takes the oaths, admitted into places of trust and power, according to his merit.

Hau. Takes the oaths! Mere cobwebs! I almost wish they had never been invented. They serv'd our purpose indeed, at first, by keeping out some of the old Tories, who were men of conscience, to do them justice. But show me the man who boggles at them now, let him be ever so great a Tory or Jacobite in his heart. I tell you, my Lord, the very blood of these Tories is tainted. I could never, without pain, see one of the hated race admitted so much as to kiss hands. Nor was I ever pleas'd with a coalition with any reputed Tory, however ready he might be to change sides, and however zealous he might seem to enter into Whig measures.

Sly. I am loath, my Lord, to imagine, that some of these last words may be pointed at me. Whatever use I may have made of the Tories, or of the name of a Tory, to serve my own purposes, no body has the least reason to doubt of my being now a staunch Whig. Have I not given sufficient proof of my attachment to every maxim or principle that can distinguish a Whig from a Tory now-a-days? Have I not shewn my zeal for continuing the war; for increasing the national debt; for multiplying taxes; for encouraging the money'd

ney'd interest, and depressing the landed; for paying German subsidies, and defending the dear Electorate? Have I not endeavour'd to abridge the power of the K——, and enlarge that of the minister, beyond what any of my predecessors ever durst attempt, or at least avow? These, I say, are the essential distinguishing characteristics of a true Whig; for the old controversy about hereditary right is quite forgotten. Therefore, my Lords, let us not begin to rip up old sores, or shew the least jealousy one of another. However much any of this company may have disagreed formerly, we are now fairly united in one common interest, *i. e.* we are out, and must therefore join against those who are in.—The name of *Whig* will serve us best at present; therefore let it be the badge of our party. But I dare say none of this noble company is so wedded to any word or name, but he could drop it to-morrow, for another that would answer his purpose better. For what are words, but mere wind? We politicians must use them, to bubble the people. But every man of common sense knows well enough, that private interest is the only real and solid bond of union amongst politicians of every denomination.

Scriv. Spoken like an oracle! Mr Slyboots; I am entirely of your opinion; with this addition, that, like Lord Haughty and some others, I have a sort of constitutional implacable antipathy to Lord Norland, his name and his country.—O! that Bruin had extirpated the whole race when in his power!—A propos, my Lords; we must set Bruin in his old place, or we shall do nothing. Could we get him made general for life! He has millions at command; and we all know what money can do. I need say no more.

Sly. Softly, my dear Lord; whatever we may
say

say here, let us not mention Bruin to any but such as we can confide in. That d—n—d convention with Richelieu, and the great things that Prince Ferdinand hath since done with that very army which Bruin cou'd do nothing with, have quite ruin'd his military character ; which, to say the truth, was never high with men of any discernment. He never won a battle but one ;—and there, every circumstance consider'd, he could scarce have fail'd to gain the victory ; of which he made such a barbarous, bloody, inhuman, and impolitic use, as will never be forgotten by many, whatever a few sycophants may say. Ev'n the army does not wish to be again under his command, excepting a few worthless fellows, his creatures, who would be glad to see the whole nation under a military government ; whereas a commonwealth is our game. Pray then, my Lords, let us act with caution. A majority in the House of Commons wou'd stand us in more stead than an hundred Bruins : and were —— to have the least suspicion that we intended to force Bruin upon him, it would attach him the more steadily to those who are about him, and inflame him the more violently against us.

Scriv. I see, Mr Slyboots, you still retain some of your old prejudices against Lord Bruin. However, I confess a part of your counsel is not amiss. It is best to act with caution, and to do every thing that may keep us united, and so promote our common interest.—Of one thing, however, I must warn you : You will, perhaps, be told, that I am not hearty in the cause, and that I have been heard to condemn some of your measures. Never mind such intelligence. I must be prudent, and must consult the interest of my family, as well as you have done that of yours. But whatever I may say at court, you may depend upon

upon me, whenever it is necessary to throw off the mask, and appear openly in the good old cause.

Sly. It would very ill become me, my Lord, to take exceptions at what your Lordship may see necessary for the interest of your family. It is enough that we know you to be a real friend to the cause, and can have recourse to your advice on all occasions.

Scrio. It shall always be at your service; and to shew you how deeply I have the cause at heart, pray favour me with your particular attention, while I propose a regular plan, which I think it will be for our common advantage to observe and act by. It hath ever been the practice of us Whigs, to enter into a formal association among ourselves, when we have an important point to carry; and the good effects of this practice have seldom been known to fail. Let me therefore read to you [*pulling out a paper*] a draught of certain resolutions, which it will be proper for this company and their friends to enter into on the present emergency.

Omnes. — We are all attention.

Scrio. [*Puts on his spectacles and reads.*]

Whereas by the instigation of the — and other evil counsellors, his M——y hath been so far led astray from his duty, as to permit some of his most faithful friends, and most able and popular ministers, to resign their offices, and has taken upon him to appoint others in their stead, whom we, the people of Great Britain, judge highly unfit for these places of power, profit, and dignity, which they presently possess, and in whom it is highly dangerous for his M——y to repose any confidence, as being, in their hearts, sworn enemies to our present happy constitution: we, underwritten Lords and Gentlemen, having taken this, and fundry other great grievan-

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ces,

ees, into our serious consideration, hereby mutually engage ourselves to adhere firmly and heartily to the following resolutions.

1st, We shall appropriate to ourselves and our party, the name and character of *True Revolution-Whigs*, and shall set the name of *Tory* or *Jacobite*, as a mark of infamy, upon every person who shall dare to oppose us and our measures.

2^{dly}, We shall endeavour to compel every K—— for the time being, to discard every minister or servant not approv'd of by us, and to employ us and our friends only, in all posts and places of profit, power, or dignity.

3^{dly}, Whereas a peace has been lately concluded with F—— and S——, without our participation or advice, and to the great detriment of all the money-lenders in Britain and Holland, we shall never cease to represent the said treaty of peace as one of the most infamous transactions that ever sullied the annals of this or any other nation.

4^{thly}, Whereas Lord N——d, tho' divested of all public offices, is presum'd to have great influence over his M——y, (proceeding, as is surmis'd, from a cause neither proper nor necessary to be here nam'd), we shall never cease to thwart and oppose his M——y, and to put as gross affronts upon him and his ministers as our free constitution will permit, until he hath banished the said Norland, and all his adherents, from his presence and counsels for ever, and receiv'd us and our friends into their places, in such manner as shall be agreed upon by us.

5^{thly}, Whereas, by the influence of the said Norland, his M——y hath presum'd to employ divers and sundry Scotsmen in places of high trust and dignity, to the exclusion of true English Whigs, whose sole right it is to enjoy all such places,

places, we shall endeavour to procure an act of parliament that may tie up his M——y's hands in this respect for the future: and particularly, it shall be provided, That no Scotsman shall hereafter enjoy any place or preferment in England, the profits whereof exceed L. 200 a-year; excepting only in the army, where it may be necessary to retain some of them, in case any new war shou'd break out under our administration.

6thly, We shall be at great pains to inflame the nation against the present ministry, they being ar-rant Tories and Jacobites, ready to bring in Popery, slavery, and arbitrary power upon us; as witness their extending the excise-laws beyond any thing ever attempted by us Whigs since the days of Sir Robert Walpole; witness also their restraining the liberty of the press, and imprisoning divers and sundry his Majesty's subjects in a most arbitrary and illegal manner, particularly that eminent patriot John Wilkes, Esq; member of parliament, whose unparallel'd efforts in the cause of liberty, as well as his parliamentary privilege, ought to have made his person sacred.

7thly, We shall supply the said John Wilkes from time to time with considerable sums of money, for enabling him to assert the liberties of the nation, and to prosecute the secretaries of state for the injuries they have done him and the public. And whereas there are certain circumstances in Mr Wilkes's writings, and in his personal character, which may render it indecent or impolitical in some of us to associate with, or patronize him publicly, we therefore nominate and appoint the Right Honourable the Lord Mercurio to negotiate our affairs with Mr Wilkes; promising, upon our honour, to fulfil every engagement his Lordship shall enter into with that gentleman; and particularly, that Mr Wilkes shall

have a government more lucrative than that of Canada, within the first year after our restoration to the reins of government.

8thly, We shall likewise take particular care of that worthy, pious, and disinterested patriot, the Reverend Mr Churchill, whose labours in the good old cause shall be rewarded with the first bishoprick that shall fall in our gift. And, in general, we shall give all due encouragement to the writers, printers, and publishers, of the North Briton, and of every other paper or pamphlet, however dull, low, or scurrilous, that shall any way tend to abuse the —, the ministry, and the Scots, or to raise animosities between the two nations.

9thly, We shall send and disperse proper emissaries into the several counties where we have any interest, and particularly into the county of Surry, who may inflame the minds of the people against the peace, and the tax upon cyder. And we shall procure as many addresses of thanks as we can to the members of parliament in the opposition, from their constituents, as a proper counterpoise to the adulatory congratulations and addresses of the Scottish or Tory party upon the peace.

10thly, It shall be lawful, any thing in the foregoing resolutions notwithstanding, for any member of this association, to resort to court as often as he shall judge it necessary; to profess the strongest attachment to his M——y's person and government, and the highest admiration of his R——l wisdom and virtue; such professions being absolutely necessary to conceal our real opinions and intentions, and flattery being the most common and efficacious instrument that politicians employ for promoting their own designs, and blindfolding their masters.

These,

These, my Lords and Gentlemen, are the articles that I think ought to be sign'd and seal'd by every person pretending to be of our party. I submit them however to your better judgments.

Sly. And I defy any person to correct or amend them. This indeed, my Lord Scrivener, is one of the many striking instances of your penetration and solid judgment. I hope my Lord Ortolan has no exception to these truly Whig resolutions.

Ort. Not the least, so far as they go. They are quite agreeable to a Whig constitution, and to the constant practice of the party;—of our family in particular. You cannot but remember how often we resign'd, and forc'd the old gentleman to take us in again upon our own terms. The same method will still prevail, if we stand firm and united as we ought to do. In order to this, it will be very necessary, before we go further, to settle previously among ourselves the point referred to in the 4th resolution; I mean the several posts or places each of us is to enjoy after we have expell'd the present possessors. All I insist upon, for myself, is the treasury. That department must be left absolutely to me and my particular friends.

Mer. Considering your Lordship's age and infirmities, might not a pension of L. 8 or 10,000 a-year be fully as convenient as an office so troublesome and fatiguing?

Ort. No, my Lord; I can leave the fatigue to others. But I see plainly what you and Mr Slyboots are driving at. You want to ingross the whole power to yourselves;—but I tell you freely Ortolan shall have his share, — otherwise —

Sly. Patience, my dear Lord; patience. We have no such intention as you suppose. Upon my honour we have not. Lord Ortolan may
command

command his own terms. Let nothing disturb our present union.

Scriv. I ask nothing for myself, my Lords; but yet I wou'd be content, Mr Slyboots, to know what you intend for my sons. The young fellows must not be forgotten.

Sly. [*rising.*] It is impossible, my Lords, to adjust all these particulars at present; for Mr Creole can bear me witness, that I must now hurry away to the city, my brother and I having an appointment this evening with some very respectable friends there. Besides, I feel the gout beginning to molest me; and therefore must away the sooner, that I may not be out too late. Next time we have the pleasure of dining together, I shall have a plan, or partition-treaty, ready to lay before you, which I hope will be to your common satisfaction. Adieu my dear Lords. Alas! alas! my left great toe. Oh, Oh, Oh. [*Exeunt Slyboots, Mercurio, and Creole.*] Come away Mercurio. Come away Mr Creole, we shall be late. Alas! Oh!

Scriv. Well! my Lords, your opinion of Mr Slyboots. That gout serves him extremely well when he wants to disappear.

Hau. I never lik'd the puppy. He was once a virulent foul-mouth'd Tory.

Ort. I love him as little as you do, my Lord. 'Tis not the first time he has play'd me a dog-trick, and I'll pay him in coin if I can.

Scriv. He is a petulant over-bearing rascal; that's the truth on't. Just now he talks in a very humble complaisant strain,—“his poor abilities,” “our better judgment,” and what not?—But set him at the helm again, and he'll huff and swagger as much as ever. His popularity in the city turn'd his head, and made him imagine he cou'd

cou'd do any thing. Little does he consider, that the mob, who to-day are so ready to attend him to Guildhall, may be next day as ready to attend him to Towerhill or Tyburn. But we must make our use of him while his influence continues.—Bruin, Lord Bruin, is the only proper head for our party. Think of this, my Lords, till we meet again. Adieu, adieu.

[Exeunt severally.]

A C T

ACT III.

SCENE, Mr Wilkes's apartment. A great number of papers on a table. Wilkes solus reading Milton's Paradise Lost.

Reads aloud.

“SO farewell Hope, and with Hope farewell
“ Fear ;

“ Farewell Remorse, all good to me is lost :

“ Evil be thou my good.”——

[Throws away the book, and starts out of his chair.]

Gloriously express'd ! My own case to a tittle !
My fortune spent ; my services rejected ; my
commission taken from me ; all my flaming zeal
against Scots rebels and Jacobites despis'd ! The
government of Canada refus'd to me, and given
to a Scot ! and John Wilkes, Esq; member of
parliament, forc'd to subsist on a precarious pen-
sion, or contribution, from a set of discarded
courtiers !

[Silent and thoughtful a little, then looks at Milton, and at last speaks out.]

Is there no place
Left for repentance ? none for pardon left ?
None left but by submission ? And that word
Disdain forbids me ; and my dread of shame
Among the populace, whom I seduc'd,
With other promises and other vaunts,
Than to submit, boasting I could subdue
The K—— and ministry.—— *[So I read it.]*

But truly, Mr Satan, that is not altogether my
case. I could bear the shame without a blush,
were

were I sure of a good place, or a pension.—
But there it sticks.—And therefore, I say it a-
gain, “Evil be thou my good.”—This shall
be my motto when I come to take out a new coat
of arms in your infernal Majesty’s dominions. At
present the word is LIBERTY!

[*Pensive and silent again ; then aloud,*]

O Canada! what a fine thing wou’d it have been
with a thousand or fifteen hundred a year, besides
perquisites!—O Bute! how shall I forgive
thee?

To be reveng’d on thee, I could commit—even
sodomy of soul.—Brave Churchill! whose
brain, but thine or mine, could have conceiv’d,
or whose pen, but ours, could have express’d
such a noble delicate idea?

Enter a servant.

Serv. Sir,—my Lord Mercurio—

Enter Lord Mercurio.

Wilkes. [*running to meet him.*] My Lord!
your Lordship’s most devoted servant.

Mer. Yours, my dear Jack, most sincerely.
—So so: I fancy you are hard at work on the
next North Briton. [*They sit.*]

Wil. Preparing for it, my Lord;—meditating
a little on the ill treatment receiv’d by your Lord-
ship, by myself, and by many other worthy per-
sons. This whets my pen, and makes me write
with that fire and spirit which runs thro’ all my
performances.

Mer. Ay, so it will. But at present your
work is pretty easy. Your triumph over the two
secretaries is a copious fund of entertainment for
the public;—for some weeks at least.

D

Wil.

Wil. It would have been so indeed, had it not been for that damn'd bill of exceptions. Had the printers touch'd the Rhino, I should have gone snacks with them: and I never write so well as when the money chinks in my pocket.

Mer. You know my purse is always at your command. Here's a cool hundred to refresh you a little, [*putting a purse into Wilkes's hand*]. But, dear Jack, don't impute it to parsimony that I give you a little good counsel: times may change, and a thousand or two sav'd may be of great use to you, when 'tis all over with the North Briton. Try then in time to learn a little œconomy.

Wil. [*starting up in a great passion.*] Oeconomy! my Lord! do you talk of œconomy to me? The very word is a satire upon me;—and did I not know your Lordship to be my best friend, I should imagine you meant to affront me. — See what rare work I have made with the K—— and the Scot for daring to talk of œconomy. — [*More coolly, and sitting down.*] Pray, my Lord, never mention that hated word again to a gentleman who has had the honour to spend L. 50,000 in good company.

Mer. Well, Jack, you're a sad dog, and must have your own way. I had quite forgot your antipathy to that ——— what d'ye call it? so no more of it. But prithee, Jack, what MS. is that I see on your table, titled, *Political Vocabulary*.

Wil. A very useful MS. my Lord. It cost me no less than five guineas to Churchill for collecting or composing it, over and above a supper at Mother ———'s bagnio. — This Vocabulary or Dictionary is of infinite use to me in composing the North Briton. The very marrow or quintessence of that paper entirely consists of words and phrases pick'd out of this collection. With these

these we do just as musicians with a few notes.—We compound, diversify, or transpose them, at pleasure, and so chime them weekly in the ears of the people, as a new political tune.—Pray let me entertain your Lordship with an article or two of this Dictionary.—Here is the word *Scot*, which, in the grammarian style, I may term a *radical word*. Under this you have, *The Scot; The Scots favourite; Scottish prime minister; Scottish administration; Scottish balance; Scottish faction; Scots Jacobite; Scots harpies, &c. &c. &c.*; all which I have transpos'd into the North Briton; and they make some of the most elegant flowers of rhetoric that are to be found in all that paper.

Mer. Admirably well, upon my honour. Pray let me hear what epithets or phrases you have got under the word *minister*.

Wil. *Insolent minister; All-grasping minister; Jackall of the minister; Tools, Shadows of the minister; Hungry harpies of the minister; Ministerial zeal; Ministerial effrontery; Dregs of ministerial power* —

Mer. Enough, enough.—That dictionary is a real treasure; and every word in it, when transplanted into the North Briton, should be printed in *Italics*, that the readers may pronounce them with a proper emphasis. But are you not afraid of disgusting people by the too frequent repetition of them?

Wil. Not in the least, my Lord. We have such variety of them, that we can every now and then throw out a new one when the old begin to grow stale. Let me try what I can repeat without book.—*Whig; English Whig; Revolution-Whig; Tory; English Tory; Tools of corruption and despotism; Despotism; Despotism; Despotism; Highland chiefs; Tyranny of a*

Stuart ; Hated name of Stuart ; Inglorious peace ; Scandalous prostitution ; Sodomy of soul ; Excise ; Excise-laws ; Monster of excise ; Insolent excisemen ; Strangers ; Ruffians ; Extravagance ; Corruption ; Profusion ; Fetters forg'd ; Chains rivetted —

Mer. Stop, Jack ; stop. — My very ears are stunn'd. One half of those dreadful words properly applied, is enough to throw half the people of England into a panic, as effectually as George Whitefield does his auditory, by thundering out the devil, hell, and damnation to them. — But have you no comfortable enlivening phrases to balance all these dreadful sounds ?

Wil. Ay, my Lord, we have a few ; — such as, *Gracious Sovereign ; Best of Sovereigns ; Patriot ; Patriotic spirit ; Patriotic minority ; Magna Charta ; The constitution ;* and, which I should have mention'd first of all, *Liberty ! British liberty !* With this one word I can set all the city in an uproar when I please.

Mer. Upon my honour, Jack, thou art a notable fellow. Thou art absolutely master of thy business. Go on, my dear Wilkes, and never fear. We Whigs are resolv'd to protect you, print or publish what you please. Spare no body, — not ev'n the K —. You must seem to give him a good word now and then ; — but when 'tis necessary, speak of him like a freeborn Englishman.

Wil. Ay, my Lord, that is what I have done, and shall do. I have given him the lie already, and after that I think all ceremony between him and me is over. The K — ! what the duce are kings but the servants of us the people ? and when they don't please us, I John Wilkes, or any freeborn Englishman, has as good a right to chastise, or — them, if we can, as we have to chastise

or

or cashier a footman. However, tho' we should not be able to go this length, I hope we shall in time persuade the people that the K—— is a mere good for nothing ——; and then the great part of our business is done.—— The natural consequence must be,—— Place him under tutelage.—— Let Bruin be declar'd general for life;—Mr Slyboots prime minister;—Lord Mercurio first lord of the treasury;— and then, heyday! John Wilkes, Esq; governor of Canada, or what he pleases!

Mer. I may venture to assure Mr Wilkes, that on such a revolution in our favour, nothing is too much for him to expect that may be in our power to bestow. Whether Lord Ortolan or I be at the head of the treasury, he shall be one of the commissioners. 'Tis no more than he merits.

Wil. Your Lordship is extremely kind. I have indeed been at some pains, and may venture to say, have been of some use to the Whig party. I have blown the coals of dissension and disaffection into such a flame, as to make the K—— and his favourite tremble.—— Norland's retreat from court is a manifest proof of this: and the antipathy to him and his countrymen is at present so great and general, that I hope we shall at last provoke some of the Scots to do something illegal and violent, and which may prove the ground of a national quarrel.

Mer. It is indeed amazing that some of them have not been upon your bones, Jack; they don't use to be so passive when the honour of their country is made free with.

Wil. D——n the rascals; they affect to despise me. I am resolv'd not to fight any of the scoundrels;—but I would have given a thousand pound that some one of them had slit my nose or cropt my ears, provided it had been done gently,

teelly, and without going too deep. O L—d ! what a pothor would have then been about the great patriot John Wilkes, who had suffer'd so much for his honesty and zeal ?—and what a fine occasion would this have been for an English mob to have cut the throats of every Scotsman in London ?

Mer. Well, Jack, 'tis pretty fair that you would be content to suffer mutilation in the cause ;—but you would have done it much better service, had you taken the advice I gave you when in the Tower, and follow'd the example of the brave Earl of Essex.

Wil. I beg your pardon for that, my Lord ; I am not for trying such experiments. One, d'ye see, may recover a dry beating, a slit nose, or a cropt ear, and be well paid for costs and damages ; but I can't conceive what the devil should tempt a man to cut his own throat, unless he was *non compos*,—or at least morally sure that he was to lose his head in a few days for high treason. In that case, indeed, a gentleman of resolution, and of Lord Essex's principles, who was a known advocate for suicide, might be tempted to do something extraordinary for the good old cause.—But 'tis not come to that pass yet with your humble servant.

Mer. True, Jack ; and I hope you shall live to see better days. My brother Slyboots is fully resolv'd to be all or nothing. Either the young gentleman shall submit to be tutor'd by us, or we shall lead him a dance he is not aware of.—In the mean time, dear Jack, continue to do your duty vigorously, and as you have done. Give us every now and then a detail of grievances, and dress them up in the most dreadful shapes.—No matter whether the circumstances be true or false.—

Political

Political writers don't use to be over scrupulous in that respect.

Wil. Scrupulous! my Lord; that would never do with us. We must not mind either truth or reputation. Throw dirt plentifully, and some of it will stick, is one of the standing maxims of the Grubstreet society: and since the famous patriots and true Whigs, Daniel de Foe and John Tutchin, I defy any man to shew me one who has outdone John Wilkes in this respect. The other day some ministerial hireling endeavour'd to expose me in the news-papers, for a story about an Irish pension. D'ye think I took any notice of him? No, not I.—For 'tis thus I reason with myself. Twenty thousand people may perhaps see that same news-paper;—and one half of these may chance to say,—“What a rogue this Wilkes? “Who can believe his other stories and assertions, after seeing him thus detected?” The others, who favour me a little more, will say, “We must suspend our judgment, till we see “what the North Briton replies to this.” But, on the other hand, there are, I suppose, twenty thousand who have read the North Briton, but have never seen the detection. And with all these, John Wilkes is a brave honest fellow, a true patriot, who speaks out, and lets us see things as they are, without standing in awe of any man.—Balance this account now, and you see there's a great deal of clear gain to the party.

Mer. There is indeed. And besides, what think you of those who will get the story at second hand, and believe it on the authority of the retailer? The lie of a party is always circulated with incredible diligence; and, as one observes, men of honour in other respects, and who would not for the world tell a lie on their own private account, are yet as ready as others to repeat, and pretend

pretend to believe a political lie when it serves their turn.—Considering then how many great Lords and Gentlemen you have to assist you,—I need say no more.—Delicacy in such cases is quite superfluous.

Wil. Ay, my Lord ; and considering likewise the humour of the people we have to deal with. England is perhaps the best country in the world for a political writer to live in. The more romantic and incredible a story is, the more greedily is it swallow'd,—especially if there's any thing dismal in it,—any thing that tends to excite either terror or compassion. I don't wonder that the Scots Jesuit Bower made such dupes of us ; his story was so exactly calculated for our meridian : and had it not been for his countryman Douglas, I doubt not but the rascal might at last have been another Bishop of Sarum.—But the best of it is, to see such numbers deceiv'd again and again by the same persons, and by ridiculous stories of the very same kind. This has given occasion to say of the English, that they believe every thing they hear, but nothing that they see. This national foible, as I may call it, this unthinking credulity, is one of the chief things we political writers trust to, and of which we make the greatest advantage. One has nothing to do but collect two or three petty instances of seeming mal-administration, or the complaints of this and the other fellow who thinks himself injur'd, because a man of merit is preferr'd, (perhaps a little out of the common course), and dress them up in such a shape as to make them look interesting and of consequence to the public ;—and behold the whole story goes down with thousands, without the least attention to what is or may be said on the other side.—This is the very game I have plaid with Lord Norland and the two secretaries,

cretaries;—and, as your Lordship fees, with great success.

Mer. I see it indeed, and rejoice at it. But there's another part of our national character which I think has been of as good use to you as our credulity,—tho' perhaps the one will be said to proceed in a great measure from the other. I mean our national jealousy of our neighbours.

Wil. Ay, my Lord; Churchill and I between us have frighten'd almost all the old women in England, and made them believe the Scots will eat us all up in a year or two, if Norland and his party are not expell'd the nation. After this we need not think much if they are afraid of the French, as they have there a real ground for jealousy.

Mer. Yes; our jealousy of the French may be made very good use of,—especially to discredit the peace that Norland has made with them. But, dear Jack, what if you should make a trip to France, and see what they are doing. You might then tell us of their designs and preparations,—ev'n what you pleas'd,—and no body would dare to contradict you. You shan't want money;—and should Lewis take it in his head to send you to the Bastile for writing as you have done against the French, it wou'd raise your character in England ten degrees higher than ever.

Wil. Upon honour, my Lord, 'tis not a bad project. I was thinking a little of it myself; for, besides serving the purposes you have mentioned, it may not be improper for me to be a little out of the way, till we see how matters are like to go at the sitting of the parliament. Should the ministry prevail so far as to get me expell'd the house, I don't know but the next step would be to set me on the pillory; and if that should happen, the Scots would not fail to send their

E

countrymen

countrymen here a tun or two of eggs, to pay me the compliments I can't say but they owe me.— Churchill will carry on the North Briton; I hear his voice in the lobby calling for a draught of porter. If your Lordship pleases we will call him in, and give him his instructions.

Mer. With all my heart.

Wilkes rings.— *Enter servant.*

Wil. Desire Mr Churchill to walk in.

[*Exit servant.*]

Enter Churchill, bowing.

Mer. Mr Churchill, I am glad to see you. Your friend Mr Wilkes does you all manner of justice; and you may depend upon the interest of all the patriot Whigs, how soon we are reinstated.

Chur. My Lord, I am infinitely oblig'd both to your Lordship and to Mr Wilkes. It is needless to dissemble what every body knows. I am a true Swift; and whoever pays me best, may command my services.

Wil. Well, Charles, thou'rt an impudent dog, that's the truth on't. Perhaps you will return the compliment. Be it so. Such are sometimes useful. Mind your business, and you shall drink like a Lord. I am to retire a little for the good of the commonwealth; and you are pitch'd upon to continue the North Briton. Perhaps I may send you some materials now and then; and our Noble friend here will not be wanting.— Keep close by the old plan. Cry out,—that we are ruin'd,—ruin'd by the peace,—ruin'd by the tax on cyder,—ruin'd by the hungry Scots, and by the baneful influence of the Scots favourite. Represent the prevailing party as men of no weight or influence;—and that the body of the people unanimously wish for a total change in the ministry.

stry. Above all, you are to insist upon it in the strongest terms, that the nation is in a dreadful ferment;—that disaffection every day spreads and increases;—for this is in fact the best and most effectual way to increase it;—and when you find your muse in tune, *i. e.* when you have got a proper dose of your beloved porter, be sure to compose a poem in praise of Lord Bruin.—Tell the world his matchless virtues, his goodness of heart, the mildness of his nature, the greatness of his clemency, and of his care of mankind. This is one of the most proper subjects in the world for a poem;—for poets are said always to write best when they write fictions.—If you are in any difficulty, or if any body offers to call you in question for what you write, [*pointing to Lord Mercurio*], here is your patron and your oracle. What he has been to me, he will be to you, now you are in my place.

Mer. I will, upon my honour. Come along, Gentlemen.—You must go and sup with me. Parson Churchill shall say grace to us.

Ha! ha! he!

[*Exeunt omnes.*]

E P I-

EPILOGUE.

[Spoken by Mr WILKES.]

YES! countrymen; in France I've been,
And many a fine thing wou'd have seen,
Had not a d——d rebellious Scot
(Plague rot him) come and marr'd my plot.
He wears a dreadful broad Scots spado,
And threaten'd me with bastinado,
Unless, forsooth, I wou'd turn out,
And take with him a tilting bout.
This frighten'd me out of my senses,
And stopt all my intelligences:
For tho' I got a garde du corps,
Of French, who marched me before,
And cry'd, Ce Chevalier Anglois,
Est bon ami du Roy François;
I could no longer shew my face
In coffeehouse or public place,
But ev'n the girls of the town
Wou'd cry, Ce Vilkes est un poltron!
In such distress, what could I do,
But hasten back again to you?
And, since Lord E—mont is dead,
I think I've sav'd both ears and head;
For pill'ry I no longer fear,
And Forbes dares not touch me here.

F I N I S.